

[Santa Fe R.R.]

3 50



# THE COAST COUNTRY OF TEXAS

TEX  
20.5  
G 971



L. M. DISNEY,  
REAL ESTATE  
\*ALVIN, TEXAS.\*

TEXAS WANTS YOU!

5  
10  
20 **ACRES** A LIVING.  
COMFORT.  
WEALTH.

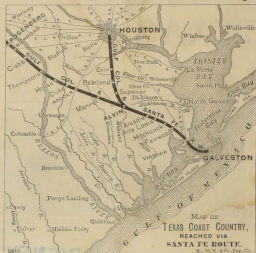
YOU WANT TEXAS!

# THE MAN WITH A PLOW (OR A FISHING ROD)

SHOULD CONSULT  
THIS MAP OF



## Texas Coast Country



W. F. WHITE, PASSENGER TRAFFIC MANAGER,	} CHICAGO.
J. J. BYRNE, ASS'T PASSENGER TRAFFIC MANAGER,	
C. A. HIGGINS, ASS'T GENERAL PASSENGER AGENT,	
G. T. NICHOLSON, GENERAL PASS'R AGENT,	} - TOPEKA.
W. J. BLACK, ASS'T GENERAL PASS'R AGENT,	
A. T. & S. F. R. R.	
W. S. KEENAN, GENERAL PASSENGER AGENT,	} - GALVESTON.
G. C. & S. F. R.	
D. WISHART, GENERAL PASSENGER AGENT,	} - ST. LOUIS.
ST. L. & S. F. R.	

## HOW BIG IS TEXAS, PA?

Plenty of Room Left for You.

Texas flies the pennant as the biggest State in the Union. Native and adopted Texans, who ought to know if anybody does, claim it is the *best* State. Without arguing a point that is backed by the unanimous assent of two and a half millions of people, it would be strange indeed if an empire five times larger than England and out of which could be carved four New Englands, did not attain the top notch in other respects than mere bigness.

Texas takes the blue ribbon as regards area, production of cotton, number of sheep, cattle and horses raised; in amount of funds set apart for free public schools and colleges, and in the size and finish of her beautiful capitol building. It ranks fourth in wealth, about third in railroad mileage, and seventh in population.

Texas produces more rice than South Carolina, more sugar and sorghum than Louisiana, more wheat than the Dakotas; has more prairie land than Kansas, a larger coal area than Pennsylvania, greater oak forests than West Virginia, more corn land than Illinois; raises more cotton than Mississippi; is capable of producing more iron than Alabama, and excels New Hampshire in granite.

The Lone Star State has an average length, east and west, of 800 miles, and an average breadth, north and south, of 750 miles. It possesses 400 miles of coast line; has navigable rivers equaling those of any five other states, and 9,500 miles of railroad, mostly trunk lines. From Texarkana to El Paso equals the distance from New York to Chicago. A man bicycling on its boundary lines would travel over 4,000 miles. There are 265,780 square miles of "room," and hardly ten people yet to each square mile. The census shows that 255,000 farmers cultivate their own land, 95,000 are tenants, and 56,000 day laborers. Needless to say, disciples of calamity are not numerous in Texas.

Beginning with a level coast, there is a gradual ascent north and west, to an elevation of 4,000 feet, which affords excellent drainage. Three-fourths of this vast area can be profitably cultivated. The southeastern and southern sections are level and free from rock—this is the famous fruit belt, rivaling California. Dense forests of oak, elm, hickory and pine cover the eastern district—there being 25,000,000 acres of merchantable pine alone. The center of Texas is an undulating prairie, like the prolific plains of Kansas and Nebraska, with succulent grasses—a fine stock country and capable of raising immense crops of corn, wheat and cotton. West Texas is broken by hills and mountains, with fertile valleys. The Panhandle region is a table-land, and noted for its fat cattle.

As a rule the rich, deep soil of Texas needs no fertilizer for standard crops. A moderate top-dressing of cotton-

seed helps to make a larger crop, but is not absolutely required. Anything can be raised that grows in the temperate zone. Sugar cane, cotton, figs, olives, pears and grapes are a remarkable success in the South. The Mediterranean countries do not excel the Texas Coast Country as regards the raising of fruit.

Texas furnishes its citizens a good living.

In 1891-92 the various products of this State (from fields, gardens, orchards, ranches and factories) amounted to nearly \$185,000,000 worth of wealth. The values of the leading crops were: Cotton, \$77,000,000; corn, \$28,500,000; wheat, \$5,250,000; oats, \$5,300,000; garden produce, \$2,500,000; potatoes, \$2,000,000; hay, \$2,125,000; sugar and sorghum, \$1,400,000; peaches, apples, grapes, plums, pears and melons, \$2,400,000; millet, barley and rye, \$500,000.

And that is not the whole story.

Live stock was assessed at \$87,000,000. Sixty-seven hundred factories employed 38,000 operatives, with an annual output of \$37,000,000.

Material wealth is not all. Texas has accumulated a permanent school fund of \$100,000,000; for the benefit of 9,575 schools. All prominent religious denominations are well represented by thriving churches, and society in general is of the highest order. The hospitality of Texas is proverbial; the latch-string is always out.

What is dug out of the ground must not be forgotten.

Coal and iron are plentiful; one bituminous coal formation on the Red River covers 12,000 square miles, with seams three feet in thickness. Bituminous and lignite coals are mined in the Nueces district, along the Rio Grande River. Extensive deposits of iron are reported to exist in eastern Texas, covering 1,000 square miles of surface, many veins being ten feet thick. There are surface indications of petroleum in several counties along the eastern border, and paying wells have been sunk at Nacogdoches. Besides these three fields of iron, three of coal and three of oil, three distinct districts of copper have been opened up—the ores of the trans-Pecos region being extensively worked. Gold and silver mines have been discovered near El Paso, and a 140-foot bed of rock salt underlies Victoria. Gypsum occurs in the Abilene Country. Asphaltum, bat guano, marls, mica and granite are found in paying quantities.

The wealth on top of the ground, waiting to be tickled by the man with the plow into a laughing harvest, is what Texas depends upon to draw settlers. And while cotton, corn and wheat are the "stand-bys"—cotton leading in importance—the beautiful region on the Gulf Coast bids fair to soon crowd other sections for first place. Where ten acres will support a family and twenty acres means a competence, is certain to be the center of a large population.

## THE COAST COUNTRY CLIMATE:

**No Cyclones; No Blizzards; No Malaria.**

Will the climate suit me? is always asked by invalids with regard to an unvisited country. Physicians agree that a favorable climate, without medicine, works greater benefits than medicine minus the right climatic conditions. A similar query ought always to come from those who only contemplate a change for business advantage, because of what avail is much cash when gained at the expense of health?

The Gulf Coast of Texas needs no hired advocate to plead its cause. That is surely an inviting land where one ton of coal furnishes necessary winter fuel for the average family, and where the summer heat rarely exceeds  $90^{\circ}$ . With such favorable environment, you do not have to slave six months in the year acquiring funds to pay for fuel consumed in the other six. That reliable statistician, the oldest inhabitant, truthfully affirms that the temperature, winter and summer, rarely varies to exceed  $15^{\circ}$  daily. January is the coldest month in the year; during twenty years the minimum temperature has fallen below  $20^{\circ}$  in five years only, below  $25^{\circ}$  in ten years, and below  $30^{\circ}$  in thirteen years. The temperature along the immediate coast has not reached a maximum of  $100^{\circ}$  in this period, the highest record being  $98^{\circ}$  in August, 1874. July is the warmest month. Killing frosts do not usually occur at Houston or Galveston until after December 1 and the unwelcome visitation is frequently delayed until January. Four years in twenty there was no frost whatever at Galveston, and in five different years there was but a single frost. The last hard frost appears any time between January 5 and February 1.

Mr. J. L. Cline, assistant observer of the U. S. Weather Bureau is authority for the above statistics.

The Texas coast winter is more a name than a fact.

In summer the weather is without noticeable variation. This evenness of temperature is what makes it possible for the farmer to work out of doors nearly every day in the year, in comfort. The genial southern trade wind, blowing over a thousand miles of salt water, brings both warmth and coolness, and contributes to maintain a similarity of seasons. This wind is always in motion, but rarely with enough violence to stir the dust. During a long period, only a few times has it blown a gale, while cyclones are unknown.

No matter how fervent may be the direct rays of the sun, a step into shade brings pleasant relief. Nights are uniformly agreeable, a blanket being necessary before morning for comfort. Occasionally there is a hard frost, preceded by a strong wind from the north. It is the dreaded "nother," the fag end of which drops down from snow-covered Dakota prairies to inform Texans that Christmas is coming. Sensitive ears and excessively tender plants have hardly felt

the nip when the flurry is over, and the all-pervading Gulf breeze resumes its sway.

The climate is comparable to that of Italy and southern California. There is so much fine weather, one almost filches thirteen months of enjoyment out of every year.

Contrary to accepted tradition, the inhabitants of the Gulf Coast do not eat quinine with every meal, nor are their faces invariably sallow. Malaria is a fable and a dream, except when invited by carelessness or ignorance. Though this is a flat country (like Illinois, Indiana and Michigan), it has but few tracts of swampy land, of small extent. Where forests occur, along the bayous, they are void of undergrowth; a sure sign nothing is present productive of ague. The surplus rainfall perfectly drains into the Gulf—chills and fever only appearing sporadically along overflowed and undrained river bottoms. On the high, open prairies, malaria is an unknown visitor, except where water is criminally permitted to remain stagnant.

Colds and catarrh cause more suffering and bring about more graveyard additions in the New England States alone, than the combined diseases of the Gulf Coast. No epidemic diseases have visited this section for a quarter of a century. Periodical fevers are almost entirely absent, and the average annual death rate at Galveston does not exceed fifteen per 1,000 inhabitants.

The annual rainfall near the coast is fifty inches, heaviest in September and lightest in February. Yet in the wettest season scarcely a day passes without its share of sunshine.

Do not infer this is a paradise. The land of perfect skies, unfailing balminess of breezes, no unfavorable extremes of heat or cold, and other Arcadian conditions, is always just over yonder, where the rainbow ends.

The summers in Texas come early and stay late. This is in keeping with the generosity of the country. Then, too, that long succession of warm and sunshiny days when one instinctively seeks the shady side of streets, may become monotonous to certain restless souls who pine for variety. To offset this, there is practically only two months of winter, and that more resembles a northern October than the scenes commonly associated with the winter months.

If you dote on a nipping air and coasting by moonlight, give Texas the go-by. The greens are more brilliant, the vegetation more prolific, and the sunshine yellower, than in the ice-bound North. Should you tire of semi-tropical delights, the Santa Fé can speedily take you to something quite different, in a day's time. But you will like it here, when once acquainted. There is a fascination in what at first sight appears a drawback. The soothing Gulf airs are a perpetual invitation to stop worry and fret and hurry. They call to just enough indolence to prevent the human machine from too hastily wearing out. It is not a misdemeanor to occasionally be a trifle lazy in Texas.

## THE COAST COUNTRY; WHERE IT IS.

Galveston, Harris and Brazoria Counties.

The famous coast region of Texas comprises that part of the State which borders the Gulf of Mexico, extending from Sabine River to Corpus Christi, and inland sixty miles—destined soon to be thickly populated and immensely productive.

For brevity, only that portion immediately tributary to the Santa Fé Railroad will be minutely described; being a triangle of land in Harris, Galveston and Brazoria Counties (of which the cities of Houston, Galveston and Velasco form the three corners) some sixty miles in each direction, bounded on the sunrise side by Buffalo Bayou and San Jacinto Bay, and toward sunset by the Brazos River.

Do not jump to the conclusion that this section has all the cream, and that skimmed milk fitly represents the tracts outside. When the man with the plow advances from the vantage ground of this triangle, he will find that the jumping-off place, like the shifting horizon line, is always just beyond, and that nearly every acre of the coast country is equally fertile. It is because the test has been fairly applied here, and a cloud of faithful witnesses are able to testify concerning things they have seen, which makes this locality a fit spokesman for all the rest.

To get at the facts:

The general surface of the country is fifty to sixty feet above mean tide level, and is sufficiently rolling to afford good drainage, which is further facilitated by numerous streams of clear-running water that empty into San Jacinto, Galveston and West Bays. Principal among these are Chocolate Bayou, Clear Creek, Austin Bayou and Oyster Creek. All these streams are fringed with fine hardwood timber, chiefly oak, live oak, ash, walnut, pecan, mesquite and sycamore. The soil is a dark, sandy loam, moderately rich and easily cultivated. Next is a subsoil of sand and clay, underlaid at a depth of from eight to fifteen feet with



A "TRAMP" COTTON STEAMER—GALVESTON.

a stratum of quicksand which furnishes almost perfect sub-irrigation. The soil of Harris County is sandy on the ridges, loamy in the river bottoms, and peaty in the marshes.

Some people have an idea that a large part of this land is worthless, because incapable of being drained; which is a mistake. There are few localities which cannot be drained, at small expense. The country is penetrated in every direction from the bay by bayous, affording an ample outlet for surface water through natural gullies and depressions leading into them, which, when well opened, render the land fit for the plow. This is being done by individual farmers and syndicates. By selecting your land after an abundant rainfall, there will be no chance of missing the right location.

What do people do here?

Galveston and Houston together comprise a population of 100,000 people. Galveston is the chief seaport of the Texas coast, and Houston is its great railroad center. There is considerable manufacturing, and the carrying trade employs large numbers of people. They must eat; and the truck farmers, fruit-growers and stock-raisers of the rural districts here have a constant, near-by market, with thickly settled central and northern Texas not far away.

The counties of Brazoria, Harris and Galveston are building a system of fine graded roads, part of them shelled, leading to neighboring trade centers. This gives quick and easy access to local markets, while the splendid harbor facilities at Galveston afford the grower of grains and the producer of fruits a seaboard market for his surplus, at seaboard prices, untaxed by railway tolls.

You ask if it takes a fortune to make one here.

No, it does not. Farm and garden land in the gulf coast belt now costs from \$8 to \$35 per acre, in small tracts, with a considerable reduction if bought in large bodies. In the immediate vicinity of railroad depots and in some otherwise specially favored localities, a higher price is asked. There is plenty of good fruit, berry and vegetable land, not yet taken, which can be purchased at an average price per acre of \$10 to \$15. Water rights for surface irrigation (as in California) are not necessary; because the abundant rainfall is supplemented by sub-irrigation.

Good schools and churches are located in most of the settlements, some of them levying a special tax for the support of their educational institutions. Newcomers need not fear they will lose sight of the little school-house in the lane. The inhabitants are industrious and law-abiding, and the country is exempt from social disorders of all kinds.

It's a good place to come with your family and settle.

And you need not fear that fruit culture is in danger of being overdone.

At Alvin, Arcadia, Hitchcock, Manvel, Pearland, Dickinson, Lamarque, North Galveston, La Porte, Shoal Point,



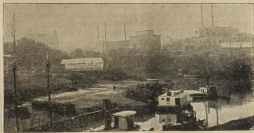
Clear Creek, Gardentown, Webster, Fairwood and Bolivar Peninsula, there are only 10,660 acres under cultivation. It would hardly make a good-sized cattle ranch! Pears are planted on 5,526 acres; vegetables come next with 2,665 acres; then watermelons, 1,500 acres; strawberries, 545 acres—the remainder being divided between cape jessamines, peaches, grapes, oranges, plums and roses.

Galveston to Houston is fifty-three miles, and the day (though November) is like a September in New England, full of light and color and buoyancy. The pretty train pulls slowly across Galveston Bay, on a trestle bridge two miles long. Main land reached, and a look ahead discovers a surface apparently as flat as a sheet of paper, covered with thick, brown grass, and relieved by stretches of green timber along the bayous. You wonder where the people are; and the orchards and vineyards. Watch for Hitchcock, the border of what an enthusiastic boomer calls "God's country." Pretty cottages nestle in clumps of green, surrounded by beds of flowers, long rows of pear trees, and vineyards galore. This is where H. M. Stringfellow, whose victories in the peaceful frontier battle over the Texas steer are recounted in real estate literature, first discovered that pears could be more profitably grown than long-horns. His orchard is always shown to visitors who wish to see for themselves what can be done in ten years from the sod.

Alta Loma, Arcadia and Pearland are comparatively new towns. Alvin is another Hitchcock, or *vice versa*, depending upon which place you see first, only Alvin is much larger, being a town of 1,500 people.

Elsewhere are given in detail the advantages of the flourishing towns that line the Santa Fé right-of-way from Hitchcock to Houston. Suffice to say, that the possessor here of a ten or twenty-acre patch of ground confidently believes he has title deeds to the best bit of real estate this side of the New Jerusalem, and, what is more, has figures to prove it.

Everybody in Texas "pulls" for Texas; that is one reason why this great State is sure to be even greater before



HEAD OF NAVIGATION AT HOUSTON.

many years. Confidence begets confidence. There is not a croaker or grumbler in Harris, Galveston and Brazoria Counties. It is the firm belief of every farmer on the G. C. & S. F. Ry., that he either has or will have an orchard just as good and just as paying as Mr. Stringfellow's; and it does not require a very vivid stretch of imagination to see, within a decade, an unbroken line of manorial gardens, country gentlemen's residences and closely cultivated farms, all the way from Virginia Point to Houston.

When that day comes, somebody will be sorry he did not buy sooner.

---

## VENI, VIDI, VICI:

Or how a PIONEER CONQUERED the PRAIRIE.

Railroads make it easy nowadays to emigrate to a new country; after arrival there are few who cannot see at a glance what obstacles must be overcome; but the man honored above all others in song and story is he who, not content with merely coming and seeing, is daring enough to act and fortunate enough to win. The world forgets the *veni* and *vidi*, and remembers only the *vici*!

To apply this:

In February, 1883, an enthusiastic horticulturist, named H. M. Stringfellow, conceived the idea that the prairie country around Hitchcock was good for something else than a cattle pasture. Certain conditions of soil and climate made him think that perhaps pears could be grown there. To be sure all previous attempts in that line had been failures, because the wrong varieties (suited to more rigorous climes) had been experimented with.

He set out 400 pear trees, using a new kind, the Le Conte, brought from Georgia. The trial setting was laughed at; he answered by planting a few more trees next year. Still his neighbors called him crazy.

The trees grew, eventually blossomed; and in a few years bore fruit in great profusion. There was not a suspicion of blight; the trees were heavily loaded with as luscious pears as ever gladdened a weary appetite. The home market took all he could spare; and when the foreign market was tested the result was equally successful.

And the doubting Thomases metaphorically kicked themselves, and began to plant Le Conte pear trees.

To-day Mr. Stringfellow's pluck, grit and science have placed him in very nice circumstances financially; but, beyond this, he has the satisfaction of having proved beyond cavil that the Coast Country of Texas has no superior with regard to the production of pears and other allied fruits.

He accomplished more. Ten years ago land near Hitchcock was occupied as a cattle range, and seeking buyers at \$2 an acre. Now buyers are seeking owners,

and offering \$8 to \$30 an acre for the same kind of ground.

You cannot talk ten minutes with this pioneer without perceiving how terribly in earnest he is. It sounds like a romance, too—his interesting tale of early life on the Texas Coast. Every tree in his orchard is individualized, and has a history, as interesting as that of one's prized animals. This one was planted at the wrong time; that one was wrongly cultivated, while the other and the other, clear down the long row, grew lustily from the start.

"One of my largest trees," he said, "is thirty-four feet high, with a spread of branches twelve feet each way, and a circumference at the base of forty-one inches. Twenty-five measured bushels will not be an unusual yield from that particular one."

His orchard now consists of about 1,500 trees that are nine to ten years old, and 2,500 younger—a total of 4,000 trees.

Asked to contribute something new and up-to-date for this pamphlet, Mr. Stringfellow hands in the following:

The pear continues to be the leading fruit for profit, and the yield of my thirteen-acre orchard the past season surpasses that of any that I have ever heard or read of. The total product sold was 9,127 forty-five pound boxes, which brought \$5,225 net, over all expense of picking, boxes, freight and commission. I had Messrs. Adoe and Lobit and Judge Geo. E. Mann examine my books, and they authorize me to state that the above is correct. The great drawback to pear culture heretofore has been the long time required to bring the trees into bearing. This has been caused by the continual propagation of trees from cuttings taken from young trees for many generations, in fact for fully twenty years. As ordinarily pruned, a bearing tree affords but little cutting wood, while a young tree furnishes an abundance. Mr. R. D. Blackshea has had a two-year tree from a bearing tree that fruited the second year; and I have had several cuttings bear at one year. Last summer three-year trees bore quite a number of pears and the same trees now promise at least two bushels to the tree from the fruit buds in sight. By propagating from bearing trees hereafter, by cuttings and budding, a pear orchard can be brought into full bearing the fourth or fifth year.

We now have varieties of Japan and Chinese Hybrid peaches that promise well and several very large orchards have been planted which will demonstrate in a year or two just what they will do. The Japan plums also seem well adapted to the Coast Country, but will require another season to determine their exact value. Up to the present time we have had no grape that could be planted largely for distant markets. While many of the American varieties bear well and carry in good order to near-by markets, none, until recently, have been found that would hang to the bunch longer than three days in the hot weather of June or July. Now, however, I have four varieties of recent origin that will keep in good order for ten days or longer, and are destined in the near future to be grown in immense quantities and prove even more remunerative than the pear.

I also have a Russian seedling apricot that will fruit the coming season, from which I expect big things.

In fact it may now be confidently asserted that it will be but a short time before we find fruits of all the different kinds that will be perfectly at home here. This, with a mild, delightful climate, perfect health and unsurpassed facilities for shipping, appeals strongly to everyone wishing to change his location.

A special reporter of the *Galveston News* interviewed Mr. Stringfellow in July, 1893, and among other interesting facts, the following are most pertinent here:

"As far as the capacity of the Le Conte pear to bear transportation is concerned, it is superb. I have shipped them to New York and to

Chicago and other points in the West, and they invariably arrived in good order and met with ready sale, coming into market in advance of the California and northern pears."

"I have no accurate data as to the total yield of my trees, except for the last three years, which were the only years that a majority of the trees have had a general crop. Of the three years, 1890, 1891 and 1892, the yield of 1890 was the most profitable, the total receipts being a little over \$1,000, the larger part of which came from my 400 La Conte and Keifer of the first planting. It must be remembered that the orchard consists of three plantings, that of February, 1883, being 400 trees on the ground used for gardening and highly fertilized every year. The second setting of 1884 was of 500 trees and the third of 600 more in 1885, in all 1,500."

"As going to show the value of high fertilizing, only the 400 oldest trees on the rich garden soil bore this second crop. From one tree well protected by a rose hedge I gathered and measured twelve bushels that escaped the wind year before last. At the low average of six bushels to the tree, the yield of the 1,500 would be 9,000 bushels. This is one remarkable advantage of the Le Conte. It can be marketed early, when little more than half grown, and still mellow up to a good eating pear. Of course the crop will measure less, but this will be compensated for by a higher price."

"In view of the large number of pear trees now set and likely to be planted in the next few years," said Mr. Stringfellow, "it may be well to inquire as to the disposal of the crop when the trees come into general bearing. I have tried to keep well-posted as to the probable future of the business. There is no question about occasional gluts of all kinds of fruits at certain periods of the season and in good crop years. This congestion of the market always comes at some time from the last of July to the middle of September, when the great bulk of the fruit crops of the country mature. Our pear crop can be entirely disposed of by July 15. We have the cannery, the evaporator, the preserving kettle, the vinegar barrel and the cider press as safety valves. I really can't see how it is possible for the Coast Country pear grower to get seriously hurt. One has only to inquire at his grocer's to find out that evaporated pears, if to be had at all, are a very high-priced article. They are never even quoted in market reports for the reason that pears have never gotten low enough to admit of their being dried in quantity. Our fresh product will be the very first that goes to market, and while of course we will not obtain such prices as my crops have brought, still we can take a great deal less and yet find the business very profitable. A close calculation shows the total cost of picking, packing, boxes, commission and freight charges to Chicago to be about forty-eight cents per bushel. Leaving out the cost of cultivation, which is very little for a bearing orchard, and everything over, say fifty cents, is clear profit. When it is remembered that, with no setback, my ten-year-old trees will certainly yield fifteen bushels each this season, it will be seen that a ten-acre lot with 1,000 trees is a very safe investment."

"Another and very important question in regard to the pear business here is: Are we likely ever to have the blight? This dreaded disease at regular intervals sweeps over the whole country, and for the last few years has played havoc with the pear orchards in Georgia, Florida and other states east of the Mississippi River. It invariably attacks bearing trees first and almost invariably immediately after a severe late spring frost, when the sap is circulating freely. Knowing all this, I watched my trees during last May and June with great anxiety, for while I had long ago made up my mind that past experience with a large number of the old blighting varieties had settled the question of the blight here—thirty-year-old trees in this neighborhood never having had the disease—still we had never had the extraordinary fall of the thermometer to twenty degrees as on the 18th of March last, when everything was in full growth. If the blight bacteria had been in this country, or my trees could have taken the disease, they certainly would have done so the past season. But there is not to my knowledge a blighted twig on a single limb of any of my 1,500 bearing trees. This settles beyond controversy that this is a blight-proof country, which can be said of no other part of the United States that I am aware of."

Asked to supply a few pointers for intending settlers, Mr. Stringfellow volunteered these:

1st. Our soil is covered with a very compact sod, that must be broken and allowed to rot before it can be pulverized, and even then there seems to be something that requires air and heat to rectify before it will produce well. It takes one year's work to bring it into good productive condition, when, with proper fertilizing, it cannot be surpassed. For pears alone this is not necessary, as experience has fully proved that if set on sod that has been simply lapped over with several turns of the plow, the trees will grow about as well as if the ground had been previously prepared. These trees throw a deep tap root at once and will go down to water the first season.

2d. As to fencing, four wires with no plank, and posts set twenty feet apart, give perfect protection, provided the corner posts are well braced. Posts cost about twenty-five cents in small lots, but can be laid down for less in car lots. Good Texas-grown horses can be bought for \$50 up, and the tough mustang ponies for about \$25.

Cotton-seed meal costs \$18 per ton, and \$1.50 per ton freight to any of the stations between Houston and Galveston. This is the great fertilizer for our soil, and answers for all crops where barn-yard manure is not made. For strawberries, one-half cotton-seed and one-half bone meal makes the very best application. For the highest results, use one ton to the acre. Remember, that one acre thus treated here will make more money than ten acres at the North. For tomatoes the same combination should be used, but in far less quantity, and in the hills if preferred.

3d. Strawberries can be set as early as September, but October is the safest month, and even as late as November the plants will make a fine crop the next spring. We have few frosts in the fall, and always get our winter in January, when sometimes the thermometer will go as low as twenty degrees, though from some reason we suffer less here from freezing than the same temperature further up.

4th. I would advise all newcomers to go slow in their undertakings, and not over-crop themselves. A twenty-acre lot is all a man needs, if he works it right, and ten acres will do many.

As a final word, Mr. Stringfellow wished to warn those without some means against embarking too deeply in the fruit and vegetable business here:

"We have a gold mine, but it takes some capital to work it. A man should be able to pay for his home and improvements, and start with all the appliances necessary to the undertaking and have money enough to run him a year, if he wants to be on the safe side. Of course, some men of peculiar fitness and energy will succeed with less. This is the fruit-growers' paradise, and with sufficient capital and intelligence a man can gather around him in a few years all that goes to beautify a home, as well as to enrich the owner. In fact, I can not see how anyone can fail, under such circumstances, to accumulate a competence in a few years after his orchards come into bearing, as well as make a living until they do."



JOS. AIKEN'S 6-YEAR-OLD PEAR ORCHARD AT HITCHCOCK, NOVEMBER 19, 1892.

## LETTER FROM MANAGER OF TEXAS CAR EXHIBIT

When the Texas exhibit of fruits, grains, ores, etc., traveled in special cars all over the Northern States, it was visited by 200,000 persons. Mr. W. B. Slosson, of Houston, Texas, was in charge, and he is therefore well qualified to answer questions asked by those unacquainted with wonderful Texas.

Below is given a letter written by him November 23, 1893, in response to a request that he furnish such facts for publication in this pamphlet as would interest the intending immigrant.

It will repay careful reading:

\* \* \* \* \*

As Director of the "Texas Exhibit Cars" (one of which was furnished by your Company) and which traversed eighteen states in 1891 and 1892 advertising Texas, I learned:

1st. That Texas has been in the past the most maligned as well as most misunderstood of any of the states,

2d. That it is yet but slightly understood that the Gulf Country of Texas can successfully compete with California or Florida in *Fruit Culture*.

It is now positively demonstrated that this can be done, and for the following reasons:

1st. The Coast Country does not require irrigation, the average rainfall, forty-five inches a year, being well distributed.

2d. Our soil does not require fertilizers—a black rich soil four feet deep.

3d. We are two days shorter haul, 1,000 miles nearer the market, which means fresher fruits delivered.

4th. We are six weeks earlier in the market, giving us more than double the price for fruits over any competitor.

With the above statements proven and undisputed we very properly institute the inquiry "Why should these fruit lands of southeast Texas to-day be selling for \$30 to \$50 per acre, while California fruit lands sell for \$500 per acre?" This disparity in prices should be transposed and will be in the near future.

We are asked why it would be advisable for a farmer in the east or northwest to sell his 160-acre farm and invest in a ten or twenty-acre farm in this country on the coast?

We answer, because more clear money can be made by the transfer, and for these reasons:

We have no winter; the climate is unsurpassed.

It costs forty per cent less to build a house than in the North.

It costs eighty per cent less for fuel.

### THREE CROPS A YEAR TRIPLES YOUR INCOME.

---

It costs fifty per cent less for clothing and bedding.

We raise two and three crops of vegetables a year.

If a man is so inclined he can work all the year, instead of raising one crop in the summer and using it all up in the winter.

Cattle do not require to be fed here; grazing is plentiful.

Yet our home markets afford the following prices:

Milk, ten cents a quart; chickens, twenty-five to forty cents each; eggs, fifteen to forty cents a dozen.

Fruit-lands are paying \$200 to \$700 per acre net a year.

While the fruit trees are growing, put in strawberries in October or November and sell your matured crop in February or March following.

Raise vegetables between the rows of trees.

Can plant the same in ninety days from the day the prairie sod is broken, and makes three crops a year.

Car-loads of strawberries were shipped from Alvin and other towns, commencing February 15th, last year, and the growers realized \$16.50 per case for them. The average price during the strawberry season being \$2.50 per case. But we are first in the market. At Webster, Harris County, (where an artesian well has been sunk 550 feet and which flows daily 160,000 gallons of pure soft water), 400 bushels of sweet potatoes were raised last year on one acre, realizing \$300 net to the owner; also fifty-five bushels of corn were raised on the same acre of ground.

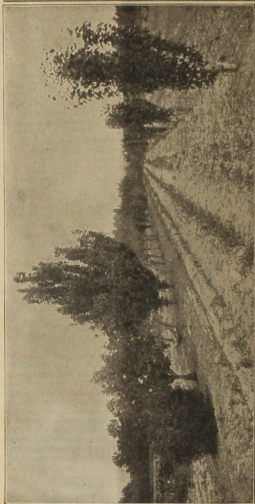
Inducements to locate in this Coast Country: A pleasant breeze prevails so that we have a more even climate than any other locality on the Continent. The summers are not as warm as in the North, and there are only two or three frosts in the winter. It is exceptionally healthy; the Government statistics average the death rate at only 11½ to the 1,000. There is a rainfall of forty-five inches per year, well distributed. Not a single failure of a fruit crop in eleven years is the *official record*. The soil is deep and rich. The lands are *cheaper* than in any other state. There are first-class home markets and good prices for fruits and vegetables. Houston and Galveston have fourteen railroads, all of which carry goods and produce at *water rates*.

*What is offered you in Texas:* Texas only, now offers cheap good lands. Texas has no mortgaged homesteads. She has lower taxes than any other state. Texas laws are better enforced than those of any other state. She has a school fund of \$100,000,000. Raises one-fourth the cotton crop of America. And her hospitable people and thousands who have located here from the North will give you a warm welcome to this bright land of fruits and flowers.

Cordially yours,

W. B. SLOSSON,

*Director Texas Immigration Association.*



A TYPICAL COAST COUNTRY PEAR ORCHARD.



## HITCHCOCK

Hitchcock, in Galveston County, on main line of G. C. & S. F. Ry., fourteen miles from Galveston, is the original home of the pear industry in Texas. Here lives the eminent horticulturist, H. M. Stringfellow, who first discovered that this section could produce with profit the finest pears in the world. His attractive home, beautiful grounds and well-kept orchards—like those of other well-to-do neighbors—attest in unmistakable words the admirable qualities of this spot with regard to soil, climate and society.

Numerous strawberry patches and truck farms lie within a radius of three miles. The land is sub-irrigated. Good well water is found at a depth of twelve to eighteen feet, and there are thirteen flowing artesian wells, varying in depth from 400 to 700 feet, with a flow ranging from 45 to 145 gallons per minute—the water rising twenty-five and thirty-five feet above ground.

Several large rose nurseries are located here. Thos. Keats owns a fine nursery, containing 30,000 roses and 1,000 magnollas. H. Perthius has 250,000 rose bushes, and F. Renaud 30,000. Tourists can obtain, in season, beautiful bouquets of rosebuds to take north, if orders are placed a day ahead. Cape jessamines are a decided success at Hitchcock, and the Japan orange is being experimented with.

Over a thousand acres of the country, immediately tributary to Hitchcock, are planted with pear trees; 100 acres with strawberries, ten acres with grapes and 135 acres are devoted to cultivation of other fruits and vegetables. H. N. Lowrey, three miles west of Hitchcock, has planted 10,000 pear trees, 3,000 peach trees and 4,000 plum trees. The Wheeler Fruit Company has 11,000 pear trees, and ten acres in strawberries.

Persons desiring to invest in small fruit farms will do well to visit Hitchcock. At this point and Alvin enough has been accomplished to prove beyond cavil, that the coast country of Texas cannot be surpassed for productiveness.

## SUPERIOR

Lies thirty-three miles from Galveston, twenty miles from Houston, and begins just two miles north of Alvin, on the Houston branch of the Santa Fé Railroad, with eight daily passenger trains. This is a new town, located upon a tract of 10,000 acres of land, purchased by the Southern Homestead Company of Houston, Texas, and is characterized by H. M. Stringfellow, the Hitchcock fruit-grower, as "the finest large body of land in the Gulf Coast." Is in the center of the newly developed fruit and vegetable belt, and is being highly improved, with finely graded roads and ample ditches. Many settlers are locating at this place, and are developing the wonderful qualities of the soil, which the Alvin people have demonstrated to be possessed of such great fertility.

IF GROWN AT ALVIN, ITS GOOD.



DISPLAY OF ALVIN PRODUCTS AT CELEBRATION IN GALVESTON, NOVEMBER, 1893.

## ALVIN

In Brazoria County, near Mustang Bayou, surrounded by fertile prairies, and at the junction of the G. C. & S. F. map line and Houston branch, is the wide-awake city of Alvin. Its present population is estimated at 1,500 people, chiefly acquired within the past four years. All kinds of retail business are fully represented. Alvin now has two spacious school buildings, several attractive church edifices and saloons. A canning factory is contemplated for next season's crops. Water-works, electric light and ice factory plants are being negotiated for. There is an abundance of pure, potable water, obtainable at a depth of fifteen to twenty feet, and several strong flowing wells of choice artesian water.

The climate of this nook is even and healthy, being pleasantly affected, summer and winter, by the Gulf breeze. The soil is a dark, sandy loam, with clay sub-soil, underlaid at a depth of ten or fifteen feet with water-bearing quicksand. Average annual rainfall is forty-five inches.

The LeConte and Keifer pears here find a congenial home. Peaches, apricots and plums are successfully grown, and the Japan orange is being experimented with. Grapes are a success, the dreaded grape rot being practically unknown. Strawberries do well, if the ground is properly prepared, the fruit ripening in February and continuing to yield until June. The cape jessamine, is extensively cultivated around Alvin. All kinds of vegetables flourish—in fact, the briny atmosphere, sandy soil and early seasons make this the truck farmers' gold mine, two or three crops a year being easily grown. Dairy products command good prices, and poultry-raising is a source of profit.

The nearness of Houston and Galveston, with ample service over the Santa Fé road, supplemented by excellent country roads, brings Alvin in close touch with unexcelled local markets. In February, March and April, 1893, the shipments by express and in refrigerator cars from Alvin to northern and eastern markets, exceeded 12,000 crates of strawberries and 3,000 crates of vegetables.

## **ARCADIA**

Arcadia was settled in the spring of 1890. It is situated on the line of the G. C. & S. F. Ry., twenty-one miles from Galveston, and twenty-nine feet above sea level. The soil is divided into a sandy and black loam, underlaid with yellow clay at an average depth of one foot. For vegetables the sandy loam is generally preferred, though both are good for fruits.

The whole country is naturally sub-irrigated at a depth of five or six feet, rendering it absolutely drouth proof as far as all kinds of trees are concerned, although even vegetables rarely suffer.

Artesian water can be had at a depth of 300 to 400 feet. Every variety of vegetable succeeds well. Tomatoes ripen by the middle of May; strawberries are ready for picking last of February, and bear abundantly until June, a yield of \$600 to \$800 per acre not being uncommon. Le Conte and Keifer pears are always vigorous, absolutely healthy, and bear an average of eight bushels to each tree six years old. Grapes uniformly healthy, productive and free from rot or mildew. Cotton does well without manuring, and in lower locations sugar-cane is a success; it is not hurt by frost before Christmas. Pears have been planted here on 280 acres, and peaches on sixty acres. The largest orchards are owned by Messrs. S. R. Wheeler, C. Peterson, J. Wharton Terry and C. E. Angell.

Whether the weather is wet or dry, there is no malaria, the sea breeze sweeping it away. Chills and fever are practically unknown. Land is for sale at reasonable prices.

## **PEARLAND**

The new town of Pearland, fifteen miles south of Houston, on the G. C. & S. F. Ry., is the center of a splendid country. The town-site has been laid off on a modern plan, with handsome boulevards and broad streets, reserving locations for churches and parks. It is expected to build up here a model community, with canning, preserve, box and basket factories. Pearland is surrounded by thousands of acres of the finest prairie land, nearly every acre of which is suited to fruit, vegetable and general farming, and as every ten-acre tract can support a large family, the projectors figure that a population of 4,000 to 5,000 in the near future is not extravagant. Ten thousand acres of the land immediately surrounding Pearland has been sub-divided into ten, twenty and forty-acre tracts, which are being sold at \$25 to \$40 per acre, one-third cash, the balance in one and two years. Each tract will front a broad, graded road.

Quite a number of families have already located here, and more will follow this winter. Pearland is healthful, well located, has easy access to seaport and interior markets; land is cheap and will rapidly increase in value.

**HARD TIMES CAN'T BREAK A BANK OF PEAR TREES.**



ARTESIAN WELL AT ALTA LOMA—FLOWS 137 GALLONS PER MINUTE.

## **ALTA LOMA**

The 8,000 acres comprising the village of Alta Loma, were laid out by a syndicate of enterprising capitalists, operating under the title of the Alta Loma Investment and Improvement Co., with headquarters at Galveston.

Alta Loma is the first station beyond Hitchcock, being seventeen miles from Galveston and thirty-five miles from Houston, on the main G. C. & S. F. line. It is the very heart and center of the Gulf Coast's magnificent fruit belt—a high prairie, heavily sodded with native grasses, and draining to the Gulf by an almost imperceptible descent.

The soil is a black sandy loam, several feet thick, with a yellowish clay subsoil, all underlaid with coarse gravel.

Alta Loma has plenty of pure fresh water, obtained from artesian wells at a depth of 550 to 750 feet. A four-inch well will supply water for 500 families. In this vicinity are nineteen artesian wells, and the city of Galveston has just located the wells and pumping-station for Galveston's fresh water supply at Alta Loma. Five million gallons of water will be delivered in the city every twenty-four hours. One million dollars will be spent in erecting this plant, and Alta Loma residents will get the benefit of a large part of this sum, directly and indirectly.

Great care has been taken in laying out these lands, the object in view being to make it an ideal place for gardeners and fruit men. The entire tract is surveyed into subdivisions of ten, twenty and forty acres, and is traversed by roads so arranged as to afford every ten-acre tract easy access to the station.

A small town-site has been laid out around the depot; but that is subordinated to the idea of filling up the land around with a good class of settlers. Given a good climate, rich soil, moderately cheap lands, an abundance of pure water, proper drainage, location near markets, easy access to railroad station, and an excellent class of people for neighbors—all of which are found at Alta Loma—and individual success is a mere matter of keeping at it.

## MANY THRIVING VILLAGES ALREADY ESTABLISHED.

The Santa Fé depot at Alta Loma is one of the handsomest on the line.

H. N. Lowry has a large fruit and vegetable farm here, with 19,000 three-year-old pear trees. A fine residence has been built by Wm. Skirvin; and Messrs. A. and L. Leonard, of Mt. Leonard, Mo., have just bought 400 acres, of which 150 acres is being planted with pear trees. J. D. Pruessner, a noted Galveston florist, is setting out a new nursery; and many other settlers are on the ground making valuable improvements.

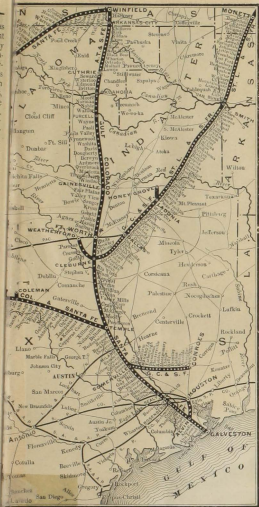
An acre here costs from \$20 to \$80, graded according to distance from the depot. The lowest-priced land is only three miles from the railroad. That this very land will within a decade command fancy prices, \$100 to \$250 an acre, is no iridescent dream. Why should this region, which in many ways is just as good as Florida or California, not bring just as good prices for its real estate? But whether this advance comes or not, there is a sure big per cent. profit assured for every honest toiler.

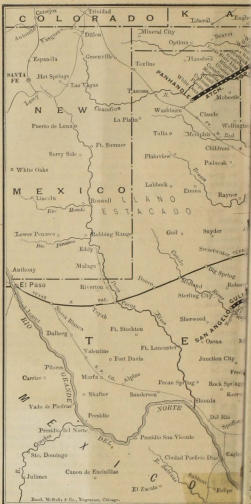
**MANVEL**—The settlement known as Manvel is named after a former President of the Santa Fé system. It is situated in Brazoria County, on the G. C. & S. F. main line, midway between Arcola and Alvin, and is thirty-six miles distant from Houston. Sixty heads of families have settled near the depot, a number of whom are Dunkards, a religious sect whose industry and thrift are proverbial.

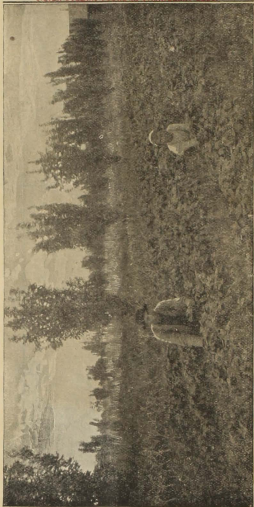
The little that has been done towards opening up this country demonstrates that it is as fertile as any other portion of the Coast. The summer of 1893 acreage was under cultivation as follows: Pears, 225 acres; strawberries, ten acres, and other fruits and vegetables, fifty acres.

Five miles from Manvel is a choice tract of 20,000 acres, in a solid body, located on the west side of Chocolate Bayou. It has been surveyed, sub-divided and platted into lots of forty acres each, with roadways for everyone, connecting with a main highway, and so arranged that they can be conveniently cut into smaller lots of ten or twenty acres each.

**MALVERN**—A short distance from Arcola (on the G. C. & S. F. Ry.) and due west from Pearland, is the new town of Malvern. It is located on the I. & G. N. R. R., in the midst of as good a fruit country as can be found anywhere on the Gulf Coast. The nearness of Malvern to the seaports of Galveston and Velasco, and to the city of Houston, makes it one of the best points in Texas for cotton farming. The prairie lands here will average 500 pounds of cotton to the acre. A large Swedish colony has bought land near by; they will raise cotton, fruit and vegetables. Sugar-cane is a paying crop, twenty tons to the acre being a not uncommon average, bringing \$4 per ton at the central factories.







MISSISSIPPI IN THE FOREST





A MODEL ORCHARD AT HITCHCOCK.

### WHAT A MAN WITH FAMILY, TEAM AND SMALL CAPITAL, CAN ACCOMPLISH IN THE TEXAS COAST COUNTRY.

Mr. L. M. Disney, of Alvin and Houston, contributes the following interesting statement, showing what a poor man can do in Texas:

A desirable immigrant to any new country is the man with small capital who seeks to establish a permanent home. It is important to such a party to know what he can accomplish for the first few years with such capital as he may have in hand. Now, suppose a man with \$500 or \$600, a good team, farm implements, such as wagon, plows, harrows, etc., comes to the **Texas Coast Country**. Let us see what he can reasonably expect to accomplish. If he engages in fruit culture, he should buy about forty acres of land, which will cost him from \$400 to \$1,000, varying with location and character of soil. By paying from \$100 to \$200 cash on his land, he can get easy time on the balance of the purchase money. Lumber is cheap, and a good three or four-room house can be built for \$200. Material for fencing the forty acres with three wires and cedar or oak posts, placed twenty feet apart, will not cost to exceed \$60 to \$65. If he reaches here in the fall or early winter, he should break his land as early as possible; then in the spring replot and plant it to cotton and sweet potatoes. Both of these crops do well on sod land, and while they do not yield as large returns as some other crops, yet they are peculiarly adapted to this country, and always produce a fair return.

With the assistance of his family he can easily plant and cultivate eight or ten acres in sweet potatoes, and the other thirty acres in cotton. From these crops he can

safely count on a return of from \$600 to \$800. As soon as he gathers his crop (October and November), he can plant a winter garden, from which he can fully meet his necessary living expenses during the winter months; then, during January and February he should plant two to five acres in strawberries, and put out as much to orchard as he desires, as the land will be in fine condition after one year's cultivation in either cotton or sweet potatoes. For succeeding years, until his orchard comes into bearing, he can cultivate the space between the trees in corn, cotton and vegetables. His forty acres, well cultivated, will yield him annually from \$2,500 to \$5,000, and from \$300 to \$500 will pay for all extra labor required. This extra help will be needed only for a short time in gathering and marketing his crops; nearly all the work can be done by himself and family. It is thought a yield of \$500 to \$800 per acre is a low estimate for a bearing pear orchard, and strawberries will yield from \$300 to \$500 per acre. Plums, grapes and some other fruits do as well, or better than pears.

Our prairie land, after the first year's cultivation, produces good crops of grain, such as corn, oats, barley, rye, millet, etc., all of which command good prices in the markets of Houston and Galveston. If he wishes to engage in general farming, he will need from 80 to 160 acres of land, which can be bought a few miles from railroad station at \$8 to \$10 per acre. Grains never do well here on sod land, and in opening new places, attention should be given to such crops as will succeed on sod land, and as feed is quite an item of expense, it is not well for people to bring a surplus of farm stock.

## **HOW TO PROFITABLY INVEST**

**In the TEXAS COAST COUNTRY.**

**THE WHEELER FRUIT COMPANY.**

HITCHCOCK, Texas, Dec. 12, 1893.

MR. W. S. KEENAN,

*Gen'l Pass'r Agt. G. C. & S. F. Ry., Galveston, Texas.*

*Dear Sir:*—Pursuant to your request for a statement from me, of facts from actual experience and personal observation, of fruit and vegetable culture, in the Coast Country, I beg leave to say: that I have no skilled or scientific acquaintances with any branch of horticulture. I have an every-day practical experience with the Hitchcock pear orchards and those of that section, having now myself over 10,000 pear trees set to orchard, ranging from two to five years of age, and having brought into successful bearing two orchards from the naked prairie. I do not, therefore, hesitate to give such facts and observations as are strictly within my own knowledge. I might further say, as bearing upon my qualification to speak on these sub-

jects, that for ten years I have been a close and earnest observer of the labors, varied experiments and best methods of my neighbors, which have led to such unprecedented success and prosperity.

**Hitchcock Soils**—Our soil is a dark loam, with a clay foundation, by which it retains both moisture and fertilizers; splendidly adapted to fruit culture, durable and much easier of cultivation than heavier soils; susceptible of cultivation at all times of the year; abundantly supplied with permanent sub-irrigation; within easy reach of the roots of the pear and other trees after the first year's growth; thus guaranteeing an adequate supply of moisture, long life and fruitfulness, both to trees and vines.

**"Le Conte" and "Keifer" Trees**—As to pears, "Le Conte" and "Keifer," the only varieties with which we are fully acquainted, I can safely say, the old theory that it requires seven or eight years with the "Le Conte" and five or six with the "Keifers" to perfect an orchard of commercial value, is absolutely exploded. Provided, however, your orchard is grown from the cuttings of fruiting trees, the "Keifers" begin to bear at three years and furnish a good crop of large superior pears at four years of age from the cuttings, and the "Le Contes" about one year later. This is no theory, but an actual demonstration from a half dozen or more orchards in this vicinity. I have in my mind now, one orchard of over seventy trees, four-year-old "Keifers," which produced this season from two to four bushels each, and know of several hundred of five-year-old "Le Contes," which have borne a good crop. By far the best results are from home-grown trees; in this we have a guarantee of freedom from disease.

**Profits of Pear Culture**—This is a very difficult subject to present, for the reason that the most moderate and conservative statement would scarcely be credited, even by experienced fruit-growers, unacquainted with the peculiar conditions of this fruit belt, the great advantage of early markets, etc.; but from actual experience, and the positive knowledge of the results of the orchards of my neighbors, in full bearing, I would say: an orchard that would make a net return, less than \$500 per acre, would sorely disappoint its owner. Look at the actual figures: Our trees run about 120 to the acre, 1,200 to ten acres. These now bear from three to fifteen bushels, dependent upon the age, pruning and development. The oldest trees have fruited without fail for five years. These pears have never sold for less than \$1 per bushel and as high as \$3 and \$4; find ready sale in the local markets, and in Chicago compete with the best California fruit. Our orchards are all young, most of them just beginning to bear; as the trees increase in age and size the yield will be much greater. Twenty-five-year-old trees in Georgia have borne as high as sixty bushels per tree.

**Strawberries**—Our soil being light and warm as well, and supplied with available moisture, produces abundantly large, well-flavored and early strawberries, yielding a profit of from \$350 to \$700 per acre—fruiting in February and lasting until about the 1st of June. With us the "Noonan" has been the most profitable and the almost universally planted berry. They are planted in raised beds or ridges, generally two rows to the bed; bone-meal being considered the best fertilizer and on the average 30,000 plants to the acre.

**Japan Plums**—Promise to be very profitable for market orchards; several varieties bearing large, handsome, good fruit. While which will prove the best for commercial orchards, is not yet determined, the Botan, Burbank and Satsuma are the favorites and grow remarkably well here.

**Vegetables**—While fruit-growing is probably the most popular, the less pretentious but equally reliable industry of truck-farming must not be overlooked. A wide and varied variety of vegetables are grown here to perfection, and at a good profit, yielding from \$200 to \$500 per acre per year; this, at least, is being done from the gardens of the Wheeler Fruit Company, and many of my neighbors are doing as well, if not better. Among the most profitable are celery, cabbage, lettuce, cauliflower, egg-plant, early tomatoes, cucumbers, snap-beans and peas. Both sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes do exceptionally well. The fact that many of these vegetables grow and mature during the winter months and early spring, warrants the producer a ready market at good prices. At the celebration of the opening of the Free Wagon Bridge connecting Galveston with the mainland, on the 16th of last month (November) a friendly rivalry was entered into by the fruit-growers and gardeners of the mainland, as to who could make the finest exhibit of our products, and certainly the display made, in point of quality, and wide range of variety, would, beyond question, have convinced the most skeptical of the merits and great possibilities of this country. Upon the wagon representing the Wheeler Fruit Company, gathered from orchards and gardens of Hitchcock, and grown in the open air, we had sixty-eight varieties of fruits and vegetables, and in justice to my neighbors, I am free to admit, that some of them made even finer displays.

My experience and observation is confined to this section. I know but little what those engaged in like pursuits are doing or making in other sections of the United States; but I do know that, with us, the growing of fruits and vegetables is profitable, and all who have energy and ordinary capacity can succeed. Hitchcock and our near neighbor, Alta Loma, are settling up rapidly, and with this settlement and a full development of this section, will follow many advantages not now enjoyed.

Respectfully,

R. T. WHEELER.

## LA PORTE

Is located upon a high promontory of land with Galveston Bay (salt water) on one side and San Jacinto Bay (fresh water) on the other. The new seaport and fruit center is going forward upon a solid and substantial basis. It has many miles of shell-drives, salt bathing, excellent fishing and hunting, artesian water, native groves, rich soil and perfect drainage. Its buildings are of the superior class. La Porte is twenty-two miles from Houston and thirty miles from Galveston, and will soon be connected with the former city by railroad.

At La Porte is Morgan's ship canal, 350 feet wide and 1,500 feet long, and from twenty-two to twenty-seven feet deep. The battle cry of the citizens is "High land and deep water meet at La Porte." The *Houston Post* of Tuesday, Nov. 21, says the excursions conducted by the La Porte Company have been the most successful ever run into South Texas, and the great majority of these excursions chose the Santa Fé Route.

## THE DICKINSON COUNTRY

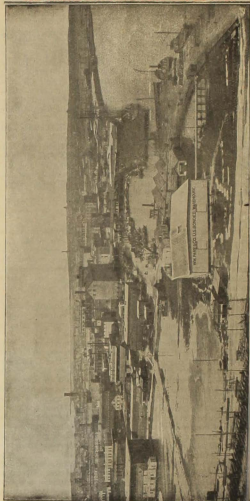
Near the Galveston and Houston half-way point is the famous Dickinson Country, surrounding the railroad station of that name. Dickinson Creek debouches into Galveston Bay at a point five miles distant from where the railway bridge crosses the stream, and affords excellent drainage. The soil near the stream is clayey, but a short distance out it becomes mixed with black, sandy loam, underlaid at a short depth by clay.

An approximation of the acreage in the country immediately adjacent, is as follows: Pears, 510 acres; plums, thirty-five; peaches, twenty-five; grapes, thirty; strawberries, thirty; vegetables, 520; total, 1,150.

The Empson Packing Company has purchased a section of land about midway between Dickinson and Clear Creek, and has 500 acres of land plowed. The Company will enter largely into the cultivation of vegetables. While early tomatoes will be the principal crop, all sorts of vegetables will be tried, and arrangements have been entered into with the refrigerator lines to move the crop. A large number of fruit trees will be planted of different varieties, and 150 acres set out in grapes. During the picking season the Company expects to need 150 people to handle the crop. Millet, alfalfa, Japan clover and other grasses and feed stuff will be tried in season for the purpose of determining what will thrive best in this section.

Closely contiguous to the tomato plantation of the Empson Packing Company is the farm of the Galveston Ramie Company, on which there are now twelve acres of growing ramie, which, as well as jute, grows luxuriantly.

DEEP HARBORS IN THE RIGHT PLACE MAKE BIG CITIES.



## CORPUS CHRISTI

In the vicinity of Corpus Christi the fruit and vegetable industry is still in its infancy, only a few years having elapsed since the gardeners began raising vegetables for shipment. Almost all kinds of vegetables are successfully raised, including potatoes—Irish and sweet, tomatoes, beets, turnips, radishes, lettuce, onions, cabbage, cauliflower, watermelons, squash, cantaloupes, cucumbers, peas, beans, celery, etc.

From the most reliable authority it is learned that the average yield and profit per acre is as follows, on the crops named:

	NET PROFIT.
Cabbage, 8,000 pounds per acre.....	\$415
Onions, 8,000 pounds per acre.....	117
Potatoes, sweet, 100 bushels per acre.....	55
Potatoes, Irish, 100 bushels per acre.....	232
Watermelons, 1,000 per acre.....	118
Cucumbers, 1,000 dozen per acre.....	198
Peas, 55 bushels per acre.....	100
Beans, 90 bushels per acre.....	176
Tomatoes, 250 bushels per acre.....	500

In this section very little fruit has yet been raised for market, with the exception of grapes, which ripen ready for market at least six weeks earlier than in California. Large vineyards have been planted during the past few years, but are not yet fully producing for the market.

Orange and lemon trees are to be found in most of the private gardens in this vicinity, but none are produced for shipment. Many date palm trees exist in Corpus Christi, the slight frosts having had no injurious effect upon them.

The soils in this vicinity are the sandy soil of the sea coast lands, the black sandy loam, the heavy black and the "hogwallow" land, and all of these lands are suitable for market gardening and fruit raising.

The temperature varies between 94° to a minimum of 24°, though there are many winters during which there are no killing frosts. Rainfall varies from twenty-five to forty inches per annum, generally well distributed.

## GALVESTON

Great cities rise and flourish in response to a need. Rarely are they created by individual fiat or caprice.

The city of Galveston supplies a distinct want, that of ocean port for the southwest, and therefore ought to grow steadily year by year. It is built on the extreme east end of Galveston Island, just off the Gulf Coast of Texas, is six miles in area, and has a population of 35,000.

This fact appears remarkable; that a city of that size should transact business equal to other communities with three or four times more inhabitants. The anomaly is easily explained. The finest land-locked harbor on the Gulf of Mexico has given Galveston an immense carrying trade. Here come ships from European and South Amer-

ican ports to carry away our cotton, corn and wheat, in exchange for money or foreign commodities. So profitable has been the handling of these exchanges that conservative merchants and brokers were content to reap assured gains without seeking to bring in strangers by heralding to the outside world the city's manifest advantages.

Galveston was not discovered, in the true sense of the word, until a few years ago. Then the great West awoke to the fact that by means of the Santa Fé Railroad it was linked to a deep water port several hundred miles nearer the interior than is New York City. The United States Government appropriated \$6,200,000 to secure a channel of sufficient depth across the bar at the entrance of the bay, and now (November, 1893) there is sixteen to seventeen feet of water at mean low tide, which will be increased to accommodate any craft that floats. Jetty construction was begun in 1885, but work was not actively pushed until 1890. The south jetty is six miles long and the north arm has been extended two miles.

During the five months ending January 31, 1893, there arrived at Galveston 194 steamships, with capacity of 321,000 tons and manned by 5,500 sailors; also fifty-five sailing vessels, of 25,000 tons and carrying 420 men—not including the small local craft. The clearances were nearly as many. In other words, the vessels regularly touching at Galveston can accommodate 5,000 cars in and out monthly.

Three miles of completed wharves, on the bay front with room for more, amply accommodate existing traffic. Immense grain elevators have been erected, one of which can load four ships at once. During the commercial season, after September 1, the docks are filled with bales of cotton. Cotton is the chief staple of Texas and half of it comes to Galveston, making this the second cotton port of America. Every bale of cotton leaves in the city from \$1 to \$1.50 to pay for handling, wharfage, etc.

Cotton and woolen mills, bagging, binding twine, rope and lace factories are established here. The fish and oyster business will soon rival that of Baltimore.

Another factor of Galveston's prosperity is its selection as headquarters for general offices and shops of the Santa Fé System in Texas. Handsome and substantial business blocks compactly line several wide streets, and merchants appear to prosper. The many beautiful homes, fine churches, and numerous schools of Galveston attest its superior advantages as a residence city. Two large hotels invite and foster transient custom. Many residents of interior Texas towns spend their summers in this delightful spot, invigorated by the cool sea breeze; and in the winter invalids and pleasure seekers drop down from the North to enjoy May weather in December.

To miss seeing Galveston is not to have seen a representative Texas city.





STREET SCENE IN HOUSTON.

## HOUSTON

If steamships made Galveston, railroads have made Houston—that prosperous and beautiful city of 40,000 people which has grown up at the head of tide-water navigation, fifty miles from the Gulf of Mexico. The city was founded in 1821. Near by are immense forests of pine, oak, etc., and the profusion of magnolia groves in the suburbs has given it the name of the "Magnolia City."

These are some of the things that Houston offers the newcomer:

A healthful and enjoyable sub-tropical climate; mean summer temperature of 90° and average winter temperature of 60°; sweet, pure and soft artesian water; a low death rate—only nine to the thousand; thirty miles of paved streets—vitrified brick, stone and wood; no stagnant water, and an admirable sewerage system; handsome public and business buildings, and many beautiful private residences; the finest electric street railway system in the South; a taxable valuation of \$17,000,000, the rate being \$2 per \$100; a high school and twelve public schools for 7,000 children.

Eleven trunk lines of railroad enter Houston, affording ample means for traffic with half of the vast area between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Coast. The roads actually centering here have a mileage of 9,000 and the connecting systems a mileage of 31,000. The jobbing houses of Houston do an immense business, \$32,000,000 annually, among the timber regions of east Texas, the central cotton section of the State, and the sugar districts of Texas and southwestern Louisiana. Eighty miles of switches, side-tracks, etc., afford complete facilities for handling freight. In addition to the ample facilities afforded by the Santa Fé Route for rail transportation to seaboard, a system of barges deliver cargoes on board ocean steamers at Galveston without trans-shipment.

As a cotton market, Houston takes a front rank. The receipts for season of 1892-93, were 410,000 bales. The annual lumber trade amounts to over \$15,000,000.



BUSINESS STREET IN GALVESTON.



A COUNTRY HOME AT ALTA LOMA.



IN THE SAND AT GALVESTON.



Cornish League House, Houston.



A GALVESTON RESIDENCE.

## PEARS

As a pear-producing country, the Gulf Coast of Texas justly claims to be without a rival. An orchard here of the Le Conte and Keifer pear trees, upwards of eight years of age, properly attended to, will yield a certain annual revenue of \$700 per acre above all expense of taking care of the trees and cost of marketing the fruit. The Le Conte and Keifer pears are supposed to be American seedlings from the ancestral Asiatic pear, which, in its own home, is an immense forest tree, often attaining the age of 300 years. The original Le Conte tree is still standing in Georgia, a magnificent specimen, hardy, beautiful and prolific. These wonderful new pears are as hardy as forest trees, of luxuriant foliage, grow to a great size, are here free from blight, and yield every year an enormous crop of fruit which sells in eastern and northern markets at prices that compete with the older and better known varieties. As a fruit for canning, drying or preserving, they are acknowledged as unequalled. When picked somewhat green and ripened in cellars, many connoisseurs pronounce them equal to the famous Bartlett.

Never have they failed to bud abundantly, and on the Gulf Coast of Texas there has never been a single failure of the Le Conte, Keifer and Garber pear crop, while in quality the fruits grown in more northern climes suffer in comparison.

The Le Conte of the Coast Country is the earliest pear grown anywhere in the United States. It can be placed upon the market during the latter part of June, which is fully three weeks earlier than fruit can be plucked in California. The Le Conte is a very fair eating pear; while it does not rank as high as some varieties or command the highest prices, it is a pear that supplies the market, patronized by the great middle-class of people. The Le Conte is a very rapid grower and yields abundantly; in fact it is subject to over-production, which must be guarded against. Over 9,000 bushels of Le Conte pears have been shipped from thirteen acres of nine and ten-year-old trees in H. M. Stringfellow's orchard at Hitchcock this season (1893). Most of these pears were shipped in car-load lots to Chicago, where they sold at from \$1.25 to \$2 per bushel. The same variety of pears has been raised in the Coast Region of Georgia for the last forty years and this season buyers paid \$1 per bushel for the pears boxed and put into the cars at the point of shipment. The Garbers ripen shortly after the Le Contes are through bearing. After the Garbers the Keifers begin to ripen and continue to bear until about the middle of October. The Garber ranks as one of the choicest of eating pears. The Keifer is best suited for canning and preserving. A few years will find whole train-loads of pears being shipped North.

## GRAPES

Grapes are planted, cultivated and marketed on the Texas Coast just as they are in California, except that the vineyards of Texas bear no comparison in area with the great grape-growing regions of the Pacific Coast.

Enough has been done from which to form an opinion as to the profitableness of the industry. Leading horticulturists declare that a Texas vineyard, intelligently located, and planted with the right varieties, is a certain source of wealth.

As in California, the vines are not staked or trained. They are pruned to mere stumps, and the new growth trails along the light sandy soil without fear of insect pests or decay.

The following grapes grow here in a perfection that neither California nor any other country on earth can excel: Chasselas Muscat or Muscatelli, Chasselas Rose de Peru, Emperor, Black Morocco or Tokay (both flame and white), Malaga or Chasselas Napoleon, Black Spanish, Lenoir or Black Burgundy, Goethe, Rogers No. 1, Salem, Rogers No. 53, Niagara, Black July, Concord, Roulander, Delaware, Missouri, Rissling and Herbemont.

If well fertilized, most varieties come into bearing the second year, and when three years old may be counted on for a yield of ten to fifteen pounds of luscious grapes to the vine, and much more as they increase in age.

## STRAWBERRIES

Strawberry growers variously estimate their net yields at from \$250 to \$750 per acre. Plants ordinarily come into bearing several weeks earlier than those further north, and shippers have the advantage of high prices in markets that can only be supplied from the coast.

As to profits given out by actual growers, the figures have a Munchausen look; but they are facts nevertheless. One reliable grower shows by his sales book a total of \$1,100 sales from less than one acre. Another reports \$700 from barely half an acre. The growing of this berry for market rivals in profit the culture of the pear. It brings in a fair return the first year after planting. You don't get gray-haired waiting. Beginning with raw prairie, an acre of strawberries will have cost, to break, harrow, plant, fertilize and cultivate, about \$70. The net return next year should not be less than \$300 to \$400, and double that the second year. The best results are secured by resetting plants each year.

Under date of November 22, 1893, Mr. J. M. McGinty, of Alvin, Texas, makes the following statement:

"On March 14, 1892, I and my three boys picked from one-eighth of an acre, seven and a half twenty-four-quart crates of strawberries, and shipped them to Denver, where they sold for \$8 per case, which was \$60 for the lot. This was new land and the first crop off of it."

## SUGAR CANE

One million acres of south Texas land is suitable for the production of sugar cane. As a matter of fact, only 15,000 acres are devoted to this industry (a paltry percentage) and yet last year the Texas sugar crop sold for \$1,500,000, an average of nearly \$100 per acre. Eighty dollars an acre may be reasonably counted on, one year with another.

Hitherto it has taken a big capital to run a sugar plantation, because in addition to raising the cane it was necessary to change it into sugar in one's own mill. The man with a plow and a mule, however industrious and foresighted, was barred out for lack of dollars. Conditions are changing rapidly, and capitalists are now erecting large central sugar mills. The small farmer takes his cane there and brings its value back immediately in cash. The separation of cane-growing and sugar-making processes is in line with the system of large packing houses that consume the steer and porker.

The annual expense for planting an acre of sugar cane will not exceed \$6 to \$8, because planting is only necessary every third or fourth year. To cultivate cane is not more expensive than to care for a field of cotton. The hardest part is the work of harvesting. Each individual stalk must be cut by hand, a process requiring time and labor.

Mr. J. H. House, owner of the Arcola Plantation, near Houston, says that his profit per acre per annum in cultivating sugar cane is \$60, and that the crop is never failing, though some years it is larger than others.

## COTTON

Everybody knows cotton is king, even in these times of tottering thrones; but everybody does not know that Texas produces from one-quarter to one-third of the crop grown in this country.

The Texas cotton belt is divided by Nature into six districts. The territory along the coast, while not producing as many bales as the central district, excels it in the number of pounds raised to the acre. It used to be thought that cotton could not be produced on the open prairie lands. The prairies are equal to, if not superior to the river bottom sections, and the first cost of land is much less.

Cotton is the Coast Country farmer's monopoly. It is just as convertible into money as a nugget of gold. Owing to fertile soil, good climate and intelligent culture, this part of Texas combines maximum yield with minimum cost. The best results are reached on small farms, with home labor. Under such circumstances success is as nearly sure as sunrise. The Texas cotton raiser who puts brains into his business, does not have to wait until old age for a competency. Try cotton and fruit, if you come to Texas.

## MISCELLANEOUS FRUITS

**Oranges** —Oranges do fairly well on the Texas Coast. It is expected that with the introduction of certain hardy varieties from Japan the orange will come to have an established commercial value as an article of export.

**Ramie** —The ramie plant is successfully cultivated at Dickinson. This useful plant will bear four crops yearly, yielding 12,000 pounds of fibre, worth four cents per pound. When once established, it remains permanently in the ground, and costs no more to harvest than the same number of acres in hay.

**Figs** —Figs grow in the greatest profusion. Fruit-growers who are beginning to cultivate it claim it is the most profitable fruit that can be raised in this locality. Two hundred fig trees can be planted to the acre, which will begin to bear in two years and be in full bearing in five years, and will then yield annually 400 pounds of fruit each, a net profit, when dried and preserved, of \$30 per tree.

**Plums** —Texas is the home of the plum. It grows wild in the woods in luxuriant profusion. No less than three kinds of wild plums grow in southern Texas, all of fine quality and marketable.

## MARKETS

**Poultry** —Any practical man can take ten acres of land, and 600 of the best laying hens, and by raising his own feed clear \$1,000 to \$1,500 each year, and have his fruit trees growing on the same ground. "Broilers" find a ready market in Houston at forty to sixty-five cents a head.

**Dairying** —The fact that milk retails in Houston at ten cents a quart, and butter at forty cents a pound, is enough to show that a practical dairyman, who raises his own feed, can realize fifty to seventy-five per cent profit on his investment and not work very hard either.

**Transportation** —The key to the whole problem here, as elsewhere, where a surplus can be produced, is a good, near-at-hand market, with quick transportation to foreign markets. The Gulf Counties of Texas are everywhere accessible to Houston and Galveston by rail or water, and often by both. Numerous streams and bayous are navigable inland for long distances by schooners and steamboats. Four hundred small schooners and steamers daily ply between Galveston and neighboring inland places, engaged in carrying freight. The Santa Fé Route opens up a vast market in north Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago. But the best guarantee of good prices is the fact that everything here matures several weeks earlier than a hundred miles inland or anywhere else in the United States, except the south end of Florida. The first half of the crop can always be marketed without competition!

## **VEGETABLES**

The cauliflower will, in the near future, be raised in large quantities for shipment in car lots. A salt atmosphere seems to be essential to the perfect development of this vegetable, and as the soil here is admirably adapted to it, every condition is favorable to its growth. It is strictly a fall vegetable, and when sown early in July, and set out in August in rich soil, the bulk of the crop can be marketed before January.

Cabbages, when planted at the right time, yield large returns. There is scarcely a limit to the quantities that can be disposed of in the Northwest, if grown in sufficient numbers to warrant carload shipments.

The Creole and White Queen onions are as successfully grown here as around New Orleans. They mature in April, just when northern onions are sprouting, and the demand is unlimited.

The tomato is another crop that will head the list for profit. It is safely demonstrated that the tomato will produce abundantly in the Coast Country. It begins to ripen May 20th, and at once finds ready sale at high prices all over Texas.

Irish potatoes do well everywhere; the early planting rarely brings under a dollar a bushel. Beans, cucumbers, squashes and watermelons are grown in limited quantities.

## **RICE**

Texas is fully equal to Louisiana for rice growing.

To insure a good rice crop, two factors are essential: a level body of land, and an abundance of water. In Louisiana water is largely supplied by pumping from water-courses with steam pumps. On the Texas coast it can be had from artesian wells at no cost other than the boring of the well.

To plant an acre of rice the first time will cost \$15. This includes fences, ditches, levees, plowing and planting. After the ground is once prepared, subsequent planting may be done for \$8 per acre. Planting season is from latter part of April to last of June, and crop is ready for harvest in five months from time of planting. It is harvested and threshed very much the same as wheat, and yields from ten to twenty-five barrels of rough rice per acre, worth \$3.50 to \$4.50 per barrel.

A prominent rice planter at Liberty, Texas, reports receipts of \$3,700 from eighty acres in 1893, and the entire expense only \$500, a net profit of \$32.50 per acre. If the rice straw is compressed into bales, and sold for feed, it will pay the cost of the rice crop.

Rice is being extensively cultivated in Liberty County, and is now being introduced into Brazoria County.



MAINLAND PRODUCTS AT GALVESTON BRIDGE CELEBRATION, NOVEMBER 18, 1903.

**LAS FRESAS FARM COLONY**—Eight miles from Alvin, and thirty-eight miles from Galveston, has been started what is known as the Las Fresas Farm Colony, on 9,600 acres of land in Brazoria County, west of Chocolate and east of Oyster Creeks. A public road will be graded at the Company's expense, and each ten, twenty, forty or eighty-acre farm tract will have a frontage on it. A town site of 640 acres has been reserved. The price of farm land varies from \$10 to \$20 an acre, according to location. Wood for fuel can be obtained on adjacent streams.

**BEEVILLE.**—Beeville is located 200 miles southwest from Galveston and sixty miles north of Rockport, being surrounded by some of the finest high rolling black and red sandy fruit land in the whole Coast Country. It is on the Aransas Pass and Southern Pacific Railroads. The population now is 4,000, rapidly increasing. Good society exists here, and the educational advantages will be increased by erection of a brick school house to cost \$25,000. As a corn and cotton-producing country, the county of Bee has no superior—the long season and late fall adding greatly to the yield of cotton. Beeville is about the only town in Texas which, in spite of the unfavorable season of 1893, doubled its cotton receipts. Its greatest advantage lies in the wonderful grape soil that surrounds the town. Here can be produced not only the finest varieties of California grapes, but they can be put on the market from the 1st to the 15th of June, fully one month ahead of California. Mr. Stringfellow, having watched this country for years, has not only set out a pear, peach and plum orchard of several thousand trees, but has added to his holdings a vineyard of 5,000 grape vines, and has purchased 132 acres on the high land west of town to be planted with 100,000 more vines. Messrs. Kohler and Heldenfels, his next door neighbors, are also putting out 10,000 vines the present season. These gentlemen have the finest irrigating plant in the Southwest, the whole country around Beeville being underlaid with what appears to be a subterranean river, which affords (at a depth of fifty feet) an inexhaustible supply of the purest water. With all of these advantages, Beeville must become the center of a very large fruit and vegetable-producing country.



## SOUTHWEST TEXAS

Southwest Texas, including a territory of about 40,000 square miles, consists chiefly of rich, undulating land, interspersed with stretches of smooth prairie, beautiful woodland and low-growing brush and cactus. The prevailing species of timber are: Mesquite, live oak, post oak, pecan, elm, hickory, ash, anacua and others. The soils are varied in color and consistency, sandy loam and black sticky prevailing. The sandy soils are varied in color, the black, red and yellow prevailing, and nearly all are underlaid with rich clays. Several small rivers, fed by springs of surface and artesian water, wind among the hills and groves to the gulf. In many locations, where the sandy or gravelly condition of the soil prevents baking, the rainfall has been stored and water is found near the surface, with a corresponding larger growth of vegetation. The health conditions and cheap rich lands are so attractive that new settlements, new towns and new roads are being made in nearly every county of this vast district. Among the wild fruits may be mentioned grapes, plums, berries of many kinds, pecans and other nuts. Deer, turkey and other wild animals and fowl are abundant. The coast counties have an abundant supply of fish, turtle, oyster and wild fowl, and find a rich trade in these natural resources. Corn, oats, potatoes, melons, and nearly all fruits and vegetables thrive in this soil. Cotton is well at home here. The first bale in the market each year generally ripens here, and the plant often blooms and ripens until late in December. Estivalis and other fine grapes find their natural home in southwest Texas. The finest varieties of Chinese and Japanese fruits, such as pears, peaches, plums, persimmons and oranges, are well adapted. A belt of moist coast sandy soil produces the finest European grapes, from which wine of the highest grade is made. Sea Island cotton and nearly all kinds of vegetables flourish on these coast sands. A continuous system of beautiful bays, fed by rivers and gulf passes, are set all along the coast and protected from the gulf by a strong chain of islands. This coast has several fine harbors, with passes that could be rapidly improved, and negotiations to that end are now pending. Beautiful peninsulas, covered with large timber, rise to an altitude of twenty or thirty feet among these bays and offer every inducement to the making of health and pleasure resorts. Large and small tracts of land are on the market at reasonable terms.—*Galveston News*, July, 1897.



## WEBSTER

In the center of the fertile Clear Creek Country, near a beautiful river, surrounded by lakes and groves, is the rural town of Webster, twenty-nine miles north of Galveston. Sixty-five families have already arranged to locate at Webster, and the projectors of the town believe it will continue to grow in importance. The altitude here is forty feet above the sea; surface slightly rolling and well-drained. Soil is rich, black and deep; good surface and artesian water.

Quite a beginning has been made in the line of orchards, and nearly 100 acres are devoted to vegetables and berries. Come to Webster.

# TO TEXAS OVER SANTA FE ROUTE

THE TIME CARD EFFECTIVE DEC. 1893.

## FROM CHICAGO AND KANSAS CITY (VIA PURCELL.)

Mile.		No. 5.	No. 1-7	
0	Lv. CHICAGO.....	5.00 pm	3.00 am	A. T. & S. F. R. R., Chicago to Purcell, Gulf Colorado & Santa Fe Ry., Purcell to destination.
162	Lv. Galesburg.....	10.53 pm	9.00 am	
227	Lv. Ft. Madison.....	12.38 am	11.25 am	
458	Ar. Kansas City.....	9.10 am	8.25 pm	No. 5-Daily, is a solid train, Chicago to Kansas City, with Palace Sleepers, Chair Cars, and Dining Cars. Pullman Sleeper and Chair Cars Chicago to Kansas City, and Kansas City to Galveston via Purcell and Fort Worth.
458	Lv. Kansas City.....	9.30 am	9.20 pm	
525	Lv. Topeka.....	11.50 am	11.45 pm	
686	Lv. Wichita.....	5.20 pm	6.55 am	No. 1-7-Daily, Palace Sleeper Chicago to Fort Madison, and Kansas City to Arkansas City. Free Chair Car Kansas City to Wichita, Arkansas City and Cleburne.
738	Lv. Arkansas City.....	7.40 pm	9.25 am	
827	Lv. Guthrie.....	11.10 pm	12.55 pm	
892	Ar. Purcell.....	1.45 am	3.30 pm	No. 1-7-Daily, Palace Sleeper Chicago to Fort Madison, and Kansas City to Arkansas City. Free Chair Car Kansas City to Wichita, Arkansas City and Cleburne.
892	Lv. Purcell.....	2.00 am	3.40 pm	
1068	Ar. Ft. Worth.....	8.40 am	11.15 pm	
1094	Lv. Ft. Worth.....	9.00 am	11.25 pm	No. 1-7-Daily, Palace Sleeper Chicago to Fort Madison, and Kansas City to Arkansas City. Free Chair Car Kansas City to Wichita, Arkansas City and Cleburne.
1094	Lv. Cleburne.....	10.15 am	12.55 am	
1121	Lv. Morgan.....	11.19 am	.....	
1181	Lv. Temple.....	2.20 pm	.....	No. 1-7-Daily, Palace Sleeper Chicago to Fort Madison, and Kansas City to Arkansas City. Free Chair Car Kansas City to Wichita, Arkansas City and Cleburne.
1235	Lv. Milano.....	4.30 pm	.....	
1283	Lv. Brenham.....	5.57 pm	.....	
1380	Lv. Alvin.....	9.50 pm	.....	No. 1-7-Daily, Palace Sleeper Chicago to Fort Madison, and Kansas City to Arkansas City. Free Chair Car Kansas City to Wichita, Arkansas City and Cleburne.
1404	Ar. Houston.....	11.05 pm	.....	
1410	Ar. GALVESTON.....	11.00 pm	.....	

## FROM ST. LOUIS (VIA FRISCO LINE.)

Mile.		No. 1.	No. 2.	
0	Lv. ST. LOUIS.....	8.25 am	8.30 pm	St. Louis & San Francisco Ry., St. Louis to Paris, Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Ry., Paris to destination.
228	Lv. Springfield.....	6.05 pm	5.20 am	
292	Lv. Monett.....	8.25 pm	8.00 am	
415	Lv. Ft. Smith.....	1.30 am	2.05 pm	No. 1-Daily, is a solid vestibuled train of Day Coaches and Pullman Sleepers, St. Louis to Dallas.
584	Ar. Paris.....	8.40 am	8.30 pm	
584	Lv. Paris.....	9.00 am	.....	
681	Ar. Dallas.....	1.10 pm	.....	No. 2-Daily, has Day Coaches and Pullman Sleepers, St. Louis to Dallas.
681	Lv. Dallas.....	1.25 pm	7.25 am	
736	Ar. Cleburne.....	4.00 pm	9.50 am	
736	Lv. Cleburne.....	10.15 am	10.15 am	No. 2-Daily, has Day Coaches and Pullman Sleepers, St. Louis to Ft. Smith.
1049	Ar. Houston.....	11.05 pm	11.05 pm	
1054	Ar. GALVESTON.....	11.00 pm	11.00 pm	

## FROM DENVER, COLORADO SPRINGS AND PUEBLO.

Mile.		No. 6.	No. 8.	
0	Lv. DENVER.....	5.30 pm	11.50 pm	A. T. & S. F. R. R., Denver to Purcell.
74	Lv. Colorado Springs.....	8.40 pm	3.10 pm	
120	Lv. Pueblo.....	10.25 pm	5.00 am	
523	Ar. Newton.....	12.10 pm	10.00 pm	No. 6-Daily, has vestibuled Sleepers and Chair Cars to Newton, connecting there with through train from Chicago carrying Sleepers and Chair Cars to Galveston.
523	Lv. Newton.....	4.15 pm	5.45 am	
590	Lv. Wichita.....	5.30 pm	6.55 am	
782	Lv. Oklahoma.....	12.75 am	2.30 pm	No. 8-Daily, has Pullman Sleepers, Denver to La Junta, and Newton to Arkansas City, also Chair Cars, Denver to Newton and Cleburne.
815	Ar. Purcell.....	1.45 am	3.30 pm	
815	Lv. Purcell.....	2.05 am	3.45 pm	
987	Lv. Ft. Worth.....	9.00 am	11.25 pm	
1116	Lv. Cleburne.....	10.15 am	12.55 am	
1328	Ar. Houston.....	11.05 pm	.....	
1333	Ar. GALVESTON.....	11.00 pm	.....	

## FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION

Regarding ticket rates, through car accommodations, checking of baggage, etc., to all points in Texas, apply to nearest representatives of Santa Fe Route at offices named below:

ATCHISON, Kan. .... Cor. 3d and Main Sts.	HOUSTON, Tex. .... 298 Main St.
BOSTON, Mass. .... 312 Washington St.	KANSAS CITY, Mo. .... 1050 Union Ave.
BUFFALO, N. Y. .... 55 Exchange St.	LEAVENWORTH, Kan. .... 129 Delaware St.
CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. .... 141 Ninth St.	MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. .... 545 Guaranty Loan Building.
CHICAGO, Ill. .... Monarch Building.	MONTREAL, Que. .... 136 St. James St.
CINCINNATI, O. .... 165 Walnut St.	NEW ORLEANS, La. .... 148 Gravier St.
CLEVELAND, O. .... 212 Bank St.	NEW YORK CITY .... 251 Broadway
COLORADO SPRINGS, Col. ....	OMAHA, Neb. .... 1045 Farmers St.
DALLAS, Tex. .... Grand Windsor Hotel.	FLORIDA, Ill. .... 132 North Adams St.
DENVER, Col. .... Boston Block.	PHILADELPHIA, Pa. .... 29 South 6th St.
DES MOINES, Ia. .... 1186 Lawrence St.	PITTSBURGH, Pa. .... 365 Bk. of Com. Bldg.
DETROIT, Mich. .... Savory House.	PUEBLO, Col. .... 337 North Union Ave.
EL PASO, Tex. .... Wells, Fargo & Company's Building.	SALT LAKE CITY, Utah. .... Deely Block.
FT. WORTH, Tex. .... 601 Main St.	ST. JOSEPH, Mo. .... 34 and Francis Sts.
GALVESTON, Tex. .... 214 Tremont St.	ST. LOUIS, Mo. .... 101 North Broadway.
	WICHITA, Kan. .... 188 North Main St.

# SANTA FÉ ROUTE HOMESEEKERS' EXCURSIONS

TO  
ALL  
POINTS  
IN **TEXAS**

February 13,  
March 13,  
**1894** April 10,  
May 8,

WHAT IS THE RATE?  
LOW ENOUGH; ABOUT  
ONE FARE FOR ROUND-TRIP

TICKETS WILL BE GOOD 30 DAYS, WITH  
STOP-OVERS SOUTH-BOUND



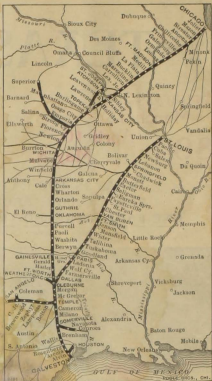
HOW TREES GROW NEAR THE GULF COAST.

WINTER TOURIST TICKETS WILL REMAIN ON SALE EVERY DAY VIA  
SANTA FÉ ROUTE, UNTIL MAY 1, 1894, GOOD TO RETURN ANY TIME PRIOR  
TO JUNE 1, 1894, TO GAINESVILLE, FT. WORTH, DALLAS, GALVESTON,  
HOUSTON, AUSTIN, SAN ANTONIO AND OTHER POINTS IN TEXAS.  
THE RATE IS A LITTLE MORE THAN IS CHARGED FOR THE MONTHLY  
EXCURSIONS.

Calif.  
U.S.A.

TAKE SANTA FÉ ROUTE TO

# TEXAS



THE  
HURON  
CL  
C  
CL  
OH  
BAIL

BEYOND THE SANTA FÉ ROUTE TO

DES  
DET

EL PASO

FT. WORTH  
GALVESTON

# TEXAS

POOLE BROS. CHICAGO